

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06871

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

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REF: STATE 080366

1. I HAVE AGAIN WEIGHED THE STAFFING OF AGENCIES
REPRESENTED IN THIS EMBASSY AND HAVE REACHED THE
FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS.

-- THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE IS CLEARLY
OVERSTAFFED AND SHOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED.
-- THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (FAS) IS GENEROUSLY
STAFFED FOR ITS MISSION AND COULD SUSTAIN A LIMITED
REDUCTION OF STAFF.

2. THE DAO PRESENTLY CONSISTS OF FIVE OFFICERS, SIX
U.S. STAFF AND THREE LOCAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES. SINCE
BELGIUM IS A NATO ALLY AND AN OPEN COUNTRY, THERE IS
RELATIVELY LITTLE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE WORK TO BE DONE
BY DAO. A VERY LARGE PROPORTION OF DAO'S INTELLIGENCE
REPORTING IS DONE BY ONE STAFF PERSON. BELGIUM HAVING
A RELATIVELY SMALL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, MAINTAINING
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CONTACT WITH THE KEY PERSONALITIES IN EACH OF THE ARMED
FORCES IS NOT A DEMANDING TASK IN TERMS OF TIME OR
PERSONNEL. IN BELGIUM THE AMBASSADOR RARELY HAS
OCCASION TO CALL UPON THE DAO FOR ADVICE ON MILITARY
OR SECURITY QUESTIONS. THE U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND (EUCOM)
HAS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF BUSINESS WITH THE EMBASSY
AND WITH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT THIS IS HANDLED

OVERWHELMINGLY THROUGH CHANNELS OTHER THAN THE DAO.
MILITARY REPRESENTATION DUTIES IN BELGIUM ARE NOT
PARTICULARLY TAXING.

3. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING I RECOMMEND THAT THE DAO BE
REDUCED FROM FIVE OFFICERS TO THREE, I.E., BY ELIMINATION
OF THE ASSISTANT ARMY ATTACHE AND THE NAVAL ATTACHE.
I RECOMMEND THAT RELATIONS WITH THE SMALL BELGIAN NAVY
BE HANDLED BY THE NAVAL ATTACHE STATIONED AT EMBASSY
THE HAGUE. I AM NOT PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED TO JUDGE
THE EFFECT OF THE DEPARTURE OF TWO OF FOUR ATTACHES
WOULD HAVE UPON STAFF REQUIREMENTS. BUT IT APPEARS
OBVIOUS THAT U.S. STAFF COULD BE REDUCED BY AT LEAST
TWO POSITIONS AND PERHAPS MORE.

4. THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT DETACHMENT AT EMBASSY
BRUSSELS CONSISTS OF AN ATTACHE, AN ASSISTANT ATTACHE,
A U.S. SECRETARY AND TWO FSLs. THE WORK OF THE OFFICE
IS PRIMARILY EXPORT PROMOTION. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT
THE ASSISTANT ATTACHE, WHILE CERTAINLY USEFUL, IS
ESSENTIAL TO THE MISSION OF THE OFFICE. THE SAME MAY
BE SAID OF THE FSL RESEARCH CLERK. CHAMBERS

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